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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/524,076	02/09/2005	Erwin Rinaldo Meinders	NL 020780	4189

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LINH THI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2627

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/07/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/524,076	Applicant(s) MEINDERS ET AL.	
	Examiner Linh T. Nguyen	Art Unit 2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/13/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8 and 10-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8 and 10-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/13/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dekker et al (US Publication number 20050099924).

In regards to claims 4 and 7, Takada et al discloses a method of recording marks representing data in an information layer of a record carrier (Fig. 2b) the method comprising the acts of: irradiating the information layer, and writing a mark by a sequence of one or more write pulses (Fig. 2b), said information layer having a phase reversibly changeable between a crystalline phase and an amorphous phase

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(Paragraph [0001]); and irradiating the information layer in between the sequences of one or more write pulses (Fig. 2b) by a radiation beam having an erase power level (Fig. 2b, element 31 is level of erase power), the erase power level being higher than the first write power level in a first portion of a write pulse of the one or more write pulses (Fig. 2b, erase power level 31 is higher than cooling power (not label)) and being lower than an n-th write power level (Fig. 2b, erase power level 31 is lower than n-th 26) in a last portion of the write pulse (Fig. 2b).

4. Claims 5, 6, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17-19, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by Masaki et al (US Patentable Number 6526014).

In regards to claims 5 and 10 Masaki et al discloses a method of recording marks representing data in an information layer of a record carrier the method comprising the acts of: irradiating the information layer, and writing a mark by a sequence of one or more write pulses (Fig. 4H), said information layer having a phase reversibility changeable between a crystalline phase and an amorphous phase (Column 24, lines 20-22), wherein at least one of the write pulses in said sequence of one or more write pulses comprises a write power level (Fig. 4H, WP1), continuously increases from a first time to a second time, said first time being different from said second time (Fig. 4H, the write power increases from WP1 to WP2).

In regards to claim 6, Masaki et al discloses the method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least one of said at least one of the write pulses in said sequence of one

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or more write pulses also comprises a rear portion having a constant write power level (Fig. 4H, rear has a constant of I3), said constant write power level being higher than or equal to the highest write power level in the front portion (Fig. 4H, I3 is the highest).

In regards to claims 13, 17 and 21, Masaki et al discloses a method and apparatus of recording a mark on a record carrier comprising the act of irradiating the record carrier with a sequence of pulses for writing the mark, wherein the sequence of pulses includes at least one of the continuously increasing pulse having an end portion with a constant level and a combination of a block-shaped pulse and a staircase-shaped pulse (Fig. 4H).

In regards to claims 14, 18 and 22, Masaki et al discloses a method and apparatus, wherein the staircase-shaped pulse includes a last portion having a larger duration than a previous portion (Fig. 4H).

In regards to claims 15, 19 and 23, Masaki et al discloses a method and apparatus, wherein the staircase-shaped pulse includes a last portion having twice a duration of a previous portion and twice a level of the previous portion (Fig. 4H).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takada et al (Patent Number 5848043) in view of Ishigaki et al (6526014).

In regards to claims 1 and 8, Takada et al discloses a method and apparatus of recording marks representing data in an information layer of a record carrier (Column 4, lines 57-61) the method comprising the acts of: irradiating the information layer, and writing a mark by a sequence of one or more write pulses (Fig. 3), said information layer having a phase reversibly changeable between a crystalline phase and an amorphous phase (Column 5, lines 20-26), wherein at least one of the write pulses in said sequence of two or more write pulses other than the first write pulse (Fig. 5B; the first pulse has an arrow pointing Pw and then a sequence of write pulses follow) have a constant power level, the first write pulse having a constant power level (Fig. 5B, the first pulse is constant). However, Takada et al does not disclose a sequence consists of multiple, i.e. n, portions after the first pulse, n being an integer number larger than 1, the i-th portion having an i-th write power level, i being an integer number in the range between 1 and n, the i-th portion preceding the (i+1)-th portion, and in that the i-th write power level is lower than the (i+1)-th write power level.

In the same field of endeavor, Ishigaki et al discloses a sequence consists of multiple, i.e. n, portions (Fig. 6), n being an integer number larger than 1 (Fig. 6), the i-th

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portion (Fig. 6; the absorption power corresponds to the wavelength so as λ increase so does laser power) having an i -th write power level (Fig. 6; $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$, etc...), i being an integer number in the range between 1 and n (Fig. 6), the i -th portion preceding the $(i+1)$ -th portion, and wherein the i -th write power level is lower than the $(i+1)$ -th write power level (Fig. 6, i -th = λ_1 is 12 and $(i+1)$ -th = λ_2). At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of recording marks by a constant sequence of one or more write pulses of Takada et al with a sequence of pulses to n portion of write power as Ishigaki et al suggested. The motivation for doing so would have been to record/reproduce at a fast speed onto a high-density optical disk.

In regards to claim 3, Takada et al does not but Ishigaki et al discloses the method, wherein at least one of the write pulses in said sequence of two or more write pulses consists of n portions of substantially the same duration (Fig. 6). The motivation is the same as claim 1 above.

7. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masaki et al in view of Ishigaki et al (6526014).

In regards to claims 11 and 12, Masaki et al does not but Ishigaki et al discloses the method wherein said write power level continuously increases at least one of linearly and a higher-order function including a parabolic function or an exponential function (Fig. 6, as time increase wavelength increase). At the time of the invention it

would have been obvious to person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the method of Masaki et al to have the power increases linearly and higher order function as suggested by Ishigaki et al. The motivation for doing so would have been to control the power level while recording/reproducing in high-speed optical disk.

8. Claims 16, 20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masaki et al in view of Dekker et al.

In regards to claims 16, 20 and 24, Masaki et al discloses everything claimed in claim 13. However, Masaki et al does not disclose a method and apparatus, wherein a first pulse of the sequence of pulses has a first part at a beginning of the first pulse with a write power level which is at least one above and below an erase power level used in between sequences of the pulses for erasing a previously recorded mark.

In the same field of endeavor, Dekker et al discloses the method, wherein a first pulse of the sequence of pulses (Fig. 2a) has a first part at a beginning of the first pulse with a write power level which is at least one above (Fig. 2a, 26 is above 252) and below an erase power level (Fig. 2a, erase power level 31) used in between sequences of the pulses for erasing (e) a previously recorded mark (Fig. 2a). At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the sequences of write pulses of Masaki et al to have the first pulse power level at least one above and below the erase power as Dekker et al suggested. The motivation for doing so would have been to record/reproduce on a high-density optical disk with high precision recording mark while increasing the speed.

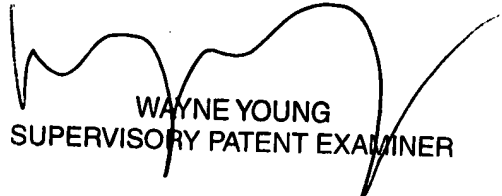
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-5513. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on 571-272-4483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LN
March 2, 2007


WAYNE YOUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER